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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:  
BERTEZ et al.  
Serial No. 09 / 755,053  
Filed January 08, 2001

Group 1725  
Examiner Jonathan J. Johnson

7/21/04  
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Method and apparatus for the laser cutting of stainless steel, coated steel,  
aluminum and aluminum alloys with a bifocal optical component

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir :

I, Olivier MATILE, a citizen of France, residing at 6/12 rue Achille MARTINET 75018 Paris, France ,  
declare that :

I am currently employed by L'Air Liquide S.A, 75 quai d'Orsay 75321 PARIS cedex 07, France.

I graduated as an engineer from Sorbonne Paris IV University and ESSA Welding Technological School.

I have over 15 years experience in the field of thermal welding and cutting, and especially in laser beam  
welding and cutting.

I am named inventor or co-inventor in several US and European patents or pending patent applications in  
this field.

In particular, I am one of the inventors of US patent n° 09 / 755,053 (Bertez et al).

I am aware of the fact that most of the Claims of our US patent application n° 09 / 755,053 have been  
rejected as being unpatentable over Nielsen (US 6,175,096) in view of Faerber (WO 96/23624).

Further, I am aware of the Declaration made by Mr. Nielsen on December 2003.

I fully agree with Mr Nielsen's Declaration as I also consider that the rejection of our Claims is not justified  
in view of the teaching of the previous patents of Nielsen and Faerber.

Hence, I decided to submit this Declaration in support of the pending claims of our patent application  
because, in my opinion, as of the priority date of the present patent application, a person of ordinary skill in



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DECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir :

I, Steen Erik Nielsen, a citizen of Denmark, residing at Park Alle 345, 2605 Broendby, Denmark, declare that :

I am currently employed by the FORCE Technology, Broendby, Denmark.

I graduated as an engineer from the Technical University of Denmark in 1981.

I have over 20 years experience in the field of thermal welding and cutting, and especially in laser beam welding and cutting.

I am named inventor or co-inventor in several US and European patents or pending patent applications in this field. In particular, I am the inventor of US patent n° US 6,175,096 B1 (PCT/DK97/00412 = WO 98/14302), entitled: Method of processing a material by means of a laser beam (hereafter called "my patent" or US'096).

I am aware of the fact that most of the Claims of US patent application n° 09 /755,053 (BerteZ et al.) has been rejected as being unpatentable over my patent (i.e. US'096) in view of Faerber (WO 96/23624).